



Congressman Dave Reichert  
Washington's 8th Congressional District

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## **SEATTLE CHOSEN FOR HOMELAND SECURITY PILOT**

*Reichert commends DHS for important technology initiative*

**WASHINGTON, DC**—U.S. Rep. Dave Reichert today praised the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for recognizing the critical role of technology in protecting our nation. DHS recently selected Seattle as one of four cities across the country to participate in a new science and technology initiative.

The urban area Regional Technology Integration (RTI) initiative will focus on speeding integration of new technologies and organizational concepts to state, regional and community homeland security efforts. Local governments and the Homeland Security Science and Technology team will work together to identify preparedness needs and apply advanced technology to those areas.

"Innovative technology is one of our country's greatest strengths," said Reichert. "By anticipating our first responders' needs, we in turn ensure faster, better response in time of crisis. Technological progress and security go hand in hand. It is important we incorporate the latest technology into our security efforts at all levels- local, state and federal."

The Seattle area is one of the nation's leading high tech centers, housing Microsoft's headquarters in the eighth district. Four regions demonstrating a willingness and capacity to adopt advanced and innovative concepts for emergency preparedness and public safety have been selected to participate in the program; Seattle, Cincinnati, Anaheim and Memphis.

These initial locations will provide the science and technology community with a realistic environment to test maturing hardware and concepts along with providing information as to how best choose, deploy, and manage these technologies to strengthen security efforts.

Seattle area law enforcement and emergency operations managers have been leaders in pursuing new and innovative ways to prevent and respond to homeland security concerns. Washington was previously selected as one of five states nationwide to test the LINX system, a program giving unprecedented online access to local, state and federal databases. The King County Sheriff's Office, along with the Police Chiefs Association, developed the innovative Regional

Automated Information Network (RAIN), in November, 2002, now a model for information sharing.

Reichert serves on both the House Homeland Security and Science Committees for the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress.

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